

Reentry and Cognitive Programming



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Reentry and Cognitive Programming is a unit within the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) mandated to reduce recidivism by providing research-based programs. They provide constitutionally mandated or legally required programs and implement evidence-based programs that target crime producing behavior. These services focus on changing criminal thinking and reducing criminal behavior. Services are selected by an assessment process that identifies an offender's risk and needs. The primary targets of effective offender interventions are criminal thinking, substance abuse, education, and employment.

MISSION

The Georgia Department of Corrections protects the public by operating safe and secure facilities through the development of professional staff and effective offender management.

Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner
Jay Sanders, Assistant Commissioner Inmate Services

PROGRAMS

COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL PROGRAM

- Designed to change criminal thinking and behavior
- Hold offenders accountable for their behavior
- Interventions are structured and directive
- Effectiveness of these interventions in changing criminal behavior has been demonstrated in numerous scientific studies

MOTIVATION FOR CHANGE

- Reduces the resistance participants have to more intensive programming
- Helps offenders identify for themselves where they are in their stage of change with regard to their criminal behaviors, addictions, attitudes, values and beliefs
- Four-weeks, five sessions curriculum program

MORAL RECONATION THERAPY (MRT®)

- Comprehensive, systematic attempts to treat substance using offenders from a purely cognitive behavioral perspective
- An objective, systematic treatment system designed to enhance ego, social, moral and positive behavioral growth in a progressive, step by step fashion
- Consists of 12 to 16 steps depending on the treatment
- Seeks to move participants from hedonistic (pleasure vs. pain) reasoning levels to levels where concern for social rules and others become important

THINKING FOR A CHANGE (T4C)

- An integrated, cognitive behavioral change program for offenders
- Includes cognitive restructuring and skills building
- Helps offenders identify the reasoning they use that reinforces criminal behavior
- Helps offenders develop positive attitudes and beliefs to counter the negative ones that continue to get them into trouble
- Program was developed by the National Institute of Corrections and averages four months in length

ANGER MANAGEMENT

- 12-week program developed through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Structured cognitive program implemented to address the needs of offenders with a history of violence or behavioral problems
- Program provided at all Level V facilities, Transitional Centers, Day Reporting Centers and Probation offices

PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS IN ACTION

- Designed to change criminal thinking and behavior
- Hold offenders accountable for their behavior
- Interventions are structured and directive
- Effectiveness of these interventions in changing criminal behavior has been demonstrated in numerous scientific studies

REENTRY SKILLS BUILDING

- Class enhances the skills of the offenders and helps them overcome barriers they may face prior to returning home
- The program offers offenders information on how to apply for a job, how to keep a job, how to manage their budgets and resources they can turn to for assistance when released

SEX OFFENDER PSYCHO-EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (SOPP)

- Focus on sexual offending as an abuse of power to meet needs despite the cost to others
- Addresses the areas that impact the way the offender views and deals with their crime when released

MATRIX EARLY RECOVERY SKILLS (ERS)

- Developed by the Matrix Institute of Los Angeles
- Designed to help offenders begin the process of substance use recovery
- Curriculum consists of eight lessons designed to teach basic recovery skills

RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT (RSAT)

- Targets high risk, high needs offenders with a history of substance use as a crime producing behavior leading to correctional supervision
- Based on the Therapeutic Community Model
- Program is nine months in length
- Georgia has one of the largest RSAT programs in the country

INTENSIVE REENTRY PROGRAM (IRP)

- Targets non-violent offenders with a history of substance abuse as a causative factor leading to correctional supervision
- Goal of the program is to give offenders tools that can be used to abstain from drugs, alcohol and criminal behaviors once released, thereby reducing recidivism

